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Fredericks, Bronwyn L. *Power of Smell*. UNSPECIFIED . ( Unpublished )

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This poem was written in 1996 as one of a series of poems focused on family and domestic violence. It was performed with the five other poems at the 1997 Rockhampton Women's Shelter Annual General Meeting. It was additionally used in Rockhampton in a domestic violence community health training package from 1997-2000. To reference: Fredericks, Bronwyn (1996). *The Power of Smell*. QUT e-prints (e-prints [www. Address and number](http://www.addressandnumber.com.au)).

## **Power of Smell**

Have you ever remembered when you...

smell a particular distinctive cologne?

The one that someone else is now wearing?

Does it remind you of someone special?

Does it remind you of something?

Some place?

Sometime when?

Sometime ago?

Do you wonder if they have the same soft touch?

Or the same caress?

Or the same glorious smile?

Or the same singing lips?

Or the same thoughtfulness?

Or the same loving ways?

Do you wonder if they have the same hard touch?

Or the same fists?

Or the same angry words?

Or the same non-hearing ears?

Or the same salty tears?

Or the same hurting ways?

As you wonder...

Do you ask why?

Do you allow it?

Do you dwell on it and smile?

As your body reacts to the memory,

Do you allow it to pass?

Do you stop it?

So powerful is the smell of a memory.